

REMARKS

The Amendments

The claims are amended to direct them to the allowable subject matter indicated in the Final Office Action. Thus, the substance of previous claim 26 is incorporated into claim 10 (as a result the percentages of the other components are modified accordingly). Claim 19 is written in independent form and claims 20-23 are amended to depend from claim 19. The amendments to claims 19-23 do not change the scope of these claims.

It is submitted that the above amendments would put the application in condition for allowance since they direct the claims to the indicated allowable subject matter. The amendments do not raise new issues or present new matter and do not present additional claims. The amendments have been made to direct the claims to the subject matter indicated in the Final Office Action to be allowable. Thus, they were not earlier presented. Accordingly, it is submitted that the requested amendments should be entered.

To the extent that the amendments avoid the prior art or for other reasons related to patentability, competitors are warned that the amendments are not intended to and do not limit the scope of equivalents which may be asserted on subject matter outside the literal scope of any patented claims but not anticipated or rendered obvious by the prior art or otherwise unpatentable to applicants. Applicants reserve the right to file one or more continuing and/or divisional applications directed to any subject matter disclosed in the application which has been canceled by any of the above amendments.

The Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112

The rejection of claim 30 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, is rendered moot

by the cancellation of the claim.

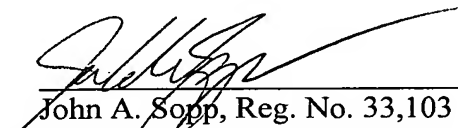
The Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103

The rejections of claims 10-18, 25 and 27-30 under 35 U.S.C. §103, as being obvious over Vanderhoff (U.S. Patent No. 5,830,927) in view of Bellas (U.S. Patent No. 5,897,698) or further in view of Mead (U.S. Patent No. 5,596,027) are believed to be rendered moot by the above amendments. The claims are now amended to present the subject matter of claims 19-24 and 26 in independent form. This subject matter was not rejected over the prior art and was indicated to be allowable if written in independent form. Thus, the rejections should be withdrawn.

It is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. But the Examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned to discuss any unresolved matters.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with this response or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-3402.

Respectfully submitted,



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